



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 29, 2003

### **S. 246**

#### **A bill to provide that certain Bureau of Land Management land shall be held in trust for the Pueblo of Santa Clara and the Pueblo of San Ildefonso in the state of New Mexico**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on May 21, 2003*

CBO estimates that enacting S. 246 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The bill could affect direct spending, but we estimate that any such impact would be negligible. S. 246 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 246 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to take 4,484 acres of federal lands and interests into trust on behalf of two Indian tribes in New Mexico. The bill would require the Secretary to survey a portion of those lands to establish new boundaries of the tribes' reservations. Based on information from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), we estimate that federal spending to complete that survey and transfer the lands into trust would not exceed \$500,000, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

Taking lands into trust for Indian tribes could result in forgone offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) if, under current law, the lands would generate income from programs to develop natural resources. According to BLM, however, the affected lands currently generate no significant receipts and are not expected to do so over the next 10 years. Further, the bill specifies that valid existing rights would not be affected by the proposed transfer of lands; hence, CBO estimates that any forgone offsetting receipts under S. 246 would be negligible.

On May 12, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 523, the Native American Technical Corrections Act of 2003, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on April 10, 2003. S. 523 contains a provision that is similar to S. 246, and our cost estimates of these provisions are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Jenny Lin and Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.